The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- April 16, 2019

REDEFINING EPA: Overhauling an agency and its mission -- Complete coverage

April 16, 2019

Latest News

Subject:

Top Democrat Says Wheeler 'Intended To Obfuscate' On State Permit Review

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN), chair of the appropriations panel that oversees EPA's budget, says Administrator Andrew Wheeler "intended to obfuscate" in recent testimony to avoid releasing adverse agency comments on a

draft Minnesota mine permit, comments that critics say political appointees suppressed as they work to ease state oversight.

Court Scraps DOI Royalty Rule Repeal, Signaling Warning For EPA Rollbacks

A federal district court has vacated the Trump administration's repeal of an Obama-era rule to determine fossil fuel royalties after it found the Interior Department (DOI) failed to state valid reasons for the new policy, with sources saying the ruling could serve as a warning for several pending EPA rollbacks of the prior administration's policies.

EPA Begins 'Disruptive' Regional Office Shuffle Despite Enforcement Fears

EPA is launching a long-planned reorganization of its regional offices in a bid to improve coordination between agency headquarters and its regions, despite fears from some agency staff that the "disruptive" shuffle could weaken enforcement and claims that EPA has not taken adequate steps to minimize the overhaul's adverse impacts.

8th Circuit Backs Evidentiary Bar For Courts' Superfund Liability Findings

A federal appellate court is endorsing a lower court's fact findings that parties who sold polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-contaminated buildings intended to arrange for disposal of hazardous substances, reinforcing the evidentiary bar that trial courts must meet to determine if a party is liable as an "arranger" under the Superfund law for response costs.

EPA Staff Crafts New Analysis Of Flaws, Possible Fixes For Vehicle GHG Plan

EPA staff has prepared a new draft review that includes possible remedies for widely criticized assumptions in the Trump administration's proposed freeze of vehicle greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards, assumptions that critics say artificially boost the safety, cost and other benefits of the proposal while understating its environmental impacts.

Daily Feed

Environmentalists appeal dismissal of EPA science advisor policy suit

Environmentalists are seeking to reverse a ruling that dismissed the first of three suits challenging EPA's controversial 2017 policy barring its science advisors from receiving agency research grants.

Environmentalists sue EPA to force coke oven air toxics standards

The suit, filed in federal district court, seeks an 'expeditious' deadline for EPA to conduct an air law-mandated review of whether to revise two air toxics rules for coke ovens.

EPA drops plan to repeal Washington water quality standard

EPA has for now dropped its plan to act on an industry petition to roll back strict Obama-era toxics limits but an environmentalist says the move is "an unfortunate signal" that EPA will resume its reconsideration.

Ewire: Klobuchar tries to navigate tricky RFS politics

In today's Ewire: Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), part of the huge field of Democratic 2020 contenders, is pitching her support for biofuels as part of a "package" of low-carbon options.

CASAC formally calls for EPA to revive special PM panel

CASAC is formally asking EPA to recruit a specialized subpanel to assist in its review of particulate matter air standards, likely delaying EPA's review.

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